Conservation Activities for Salmon Savers

Recommended for Grades 4-5

Waste is a major contributor to our pollution and health problems. As garbage piles up it tends to:

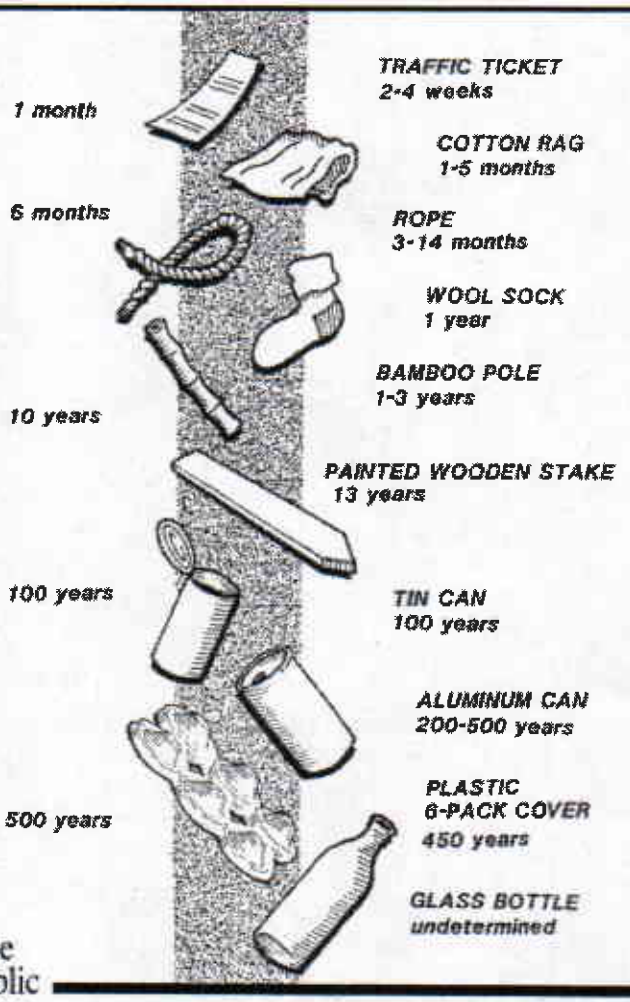
- ✗ attract disease-spreading insects and rodents
- ✗ contaminate water supplies and soil by seeping toxic liquids and metals into the ground below
- ✗ produce bad smells and methane gas (odorless, but flammable) from decomposing materials.

Many of our environmental problems are directly related to the way we consume and dispose.

Enclosed are some activities to help your students learn how they can help save salmon by preventing waste and pollution.

Enduring Litter

Litter is ugly.
Litter is waste out of place.
How long will it stay before decaying?



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Source: Washington State Department of Ecology

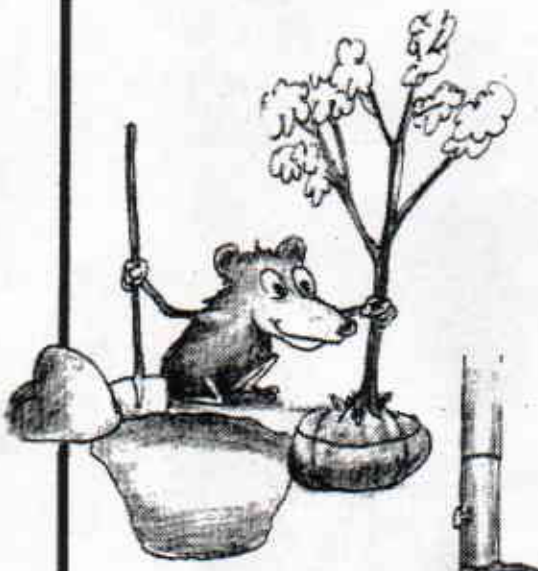
If you reduce, reuse, and recycle, you can save natural resources.

There are 7 natural resources shown in the pictures. Circle each word as you find it.

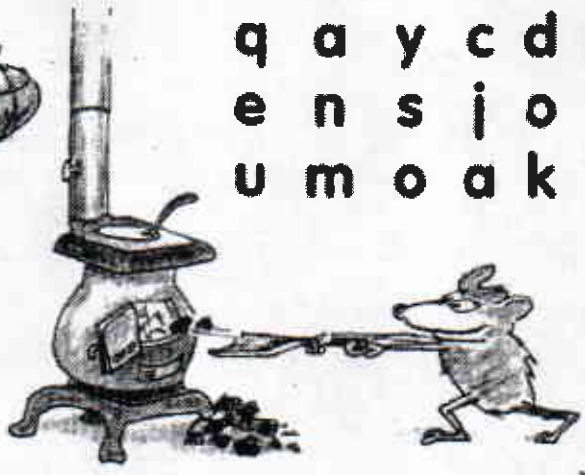
sand

minerals

b	w	a	t	e	r	m	x	e	k
t	s	p	r	l	g	i	m	t	c
a	o	g	e	z	o	n	q	n	o
v	i	d	e	k	y	e	s	c	a
z	l	h	s	a	c	r	t	h	l
q	a	y	c	d	p	a	v	d	s
e	n	s	j	o	i	l	u	f	w
u	m	o	a	k	v	s	a	n	d

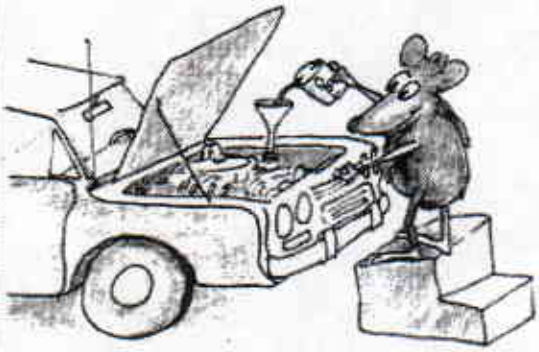


trees



coal

water



oil

soil

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

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What's It Made From?

Matching Activity

1. Aluminum Can

2. Glass Bottle

3. Plastic

4. Paper

5. Compost

6. Food

MATCHING WORDS

- Sand, soda ash, and limestone
- Rice, trees, grass, cotton
- Oil
- Bauxite
- Plants and animals
- Grass and leaves

Answers: 1.Bauxite 2.Sand, soda ash, and limestone 3.Oil
4.Rice, trees, grass, cotton 5.Grass and leaves 6. Plants and animals

Conservation Questions

Circle correct answers. (There may be more than one answer.)

1. What can you do to help save or protect water?

A. Turn off a dripping faucet
B. Take short showers or shallow baths
C. Keep litter out of lakes and streams
D. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth
E. Use chemicals on your lawn to make the grass grow thick and green
F. Clean up after your pet

2. What can you do to help save trees and even help protect wildlife like salmon?

A. Use more paper
B. Recycle as much as possible
C. Litter whenever possible
D. Use paper on both sides

3. Which one decomposes faster if it is left on the ground as litter?

A. Glass bottle
B. Aluminum can
C. Newspaper

4. Choose the ways that help make less garbage.

A. Reuse things over and over
B. Buy more stuff
C. Buy things made from recycling
D. Recycle
E. Compost
F. Refuse to buy things that come in packaging that you can't recycle

Answers: 1. A, B, C, D, F 2. B, D 3. C 4. A, C, D, E, F

Fill in the Blanks

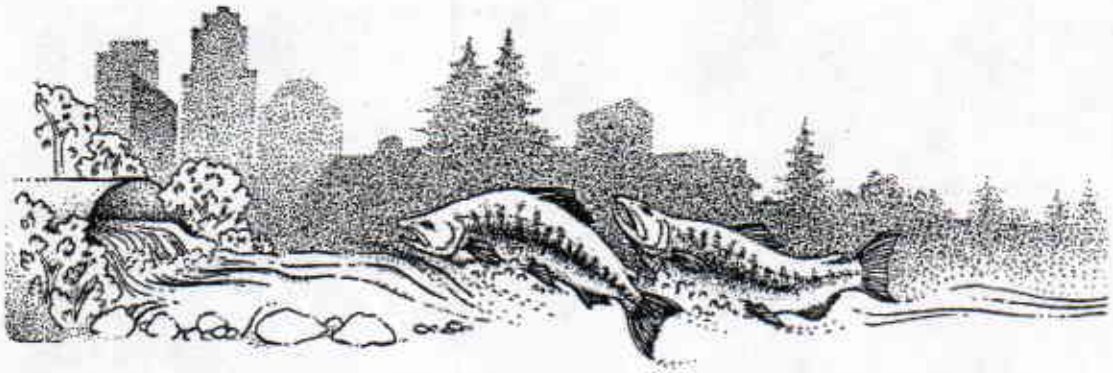
Matching Activity

WORD LIST

GLASS PLASTIC POLLUTION PLANTS METALS RECYCLING ALUMINUM
COMPOSTING LEAVES PETS GRASS LANDFILL LITTER RECYCLING

1. A product that is disposable will end up in a _____.
2. _____ is nature's way of recycling.
3. _____ and _____ can be made into compost.
4. To make _____ __ , we mine for bauxite in far away places like Australia, New Guinea and Brazil's rainforest.
5. Paper can be made from _____ because they contain fibers.
6. _____ can be recycled over and over again. _____ also can be recycled over and over, but might take as long as one million years to decompose if tossed as litter.
7. _____ is the word for waste out of place.
8. _____ a three-foot stack of newspapers can save one tree.
9. Sometimes animals, birds, and fish mistake _____ litter for food.
10. Litter causes _____ .
11. Protect water quality by cleaning up after your _____.

1. landfill 2. composting 3. leaves, grass 4. aluminum 5. plants
6. metal, glass 7. litter 8. recycling 9. plastic 10. pollution 11. pet



How Does Waste Affect Our Natural Resources

Vocabulary: **natural resource**

List on the blackboard the different materials that compose refuse. Trace each of these back to its original source. (Paper to wood to trees to soil to earth; glass to sand to rocks to earth; metal to rocks to earth; plastic to petroleum to fossil plants to earth; food to animals and plants to earth.)

Investigate where different objects in your classroom come from.

Introduce the term *natural resource* as anything that is supplied by nature that has plant, animal, or human utility.

Q What are the natural resources in the list on the board?

Q Why are natural resources important?

Q Are our resources in endless supply?

Q What will happen if we continue to waste our natural resources by burning, littering, or burying them?

Q Can you think of anything that does not use up natural resources?

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Renewable vs. Nonrenewable Natural Resources

Vocabulary: **renewable** **nonrenewable** **aluminum** **petroleum** **bauxite**

Obtain a collection of items that would normally be included in the waste stream. The collection should include examples of products from natural resources that both can and cannot be renewed (or recreated).

Reproduce the "Resource Tree" —— and distribute to the class.

Using the diagram, have students identify the raw materials used to make each item and decide whether they are *renewable* or *nonrenewable*. In the discussion, point out that *aluminum*, tin, steel, and *petroleum* are all *nonrenewable resources*. Help students to understand that some materials are not renewable because they are the result of geological processes that take millions of years to complete. Nonrenewable resources are in limited supply and once they are used up, they are gone forever.

Paper and cardboard come from the *renewable* source of wood (trees), but wood is being used at a faster rate than it can be produced commercially. At the conclusion of the discussion, students should be able to place any piece of solid waste into the categories of renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Aluminum cans, from *bauxite* (nonrenewable)

Tin-plated steel cans, from iron and tin (nonrenewable)

Glass bottles, from sand, soda ash, and limestone (nonrenewable, but in plentiful supply)

Paper, from wood (renewable)

Cardboard, from wood (renewable)

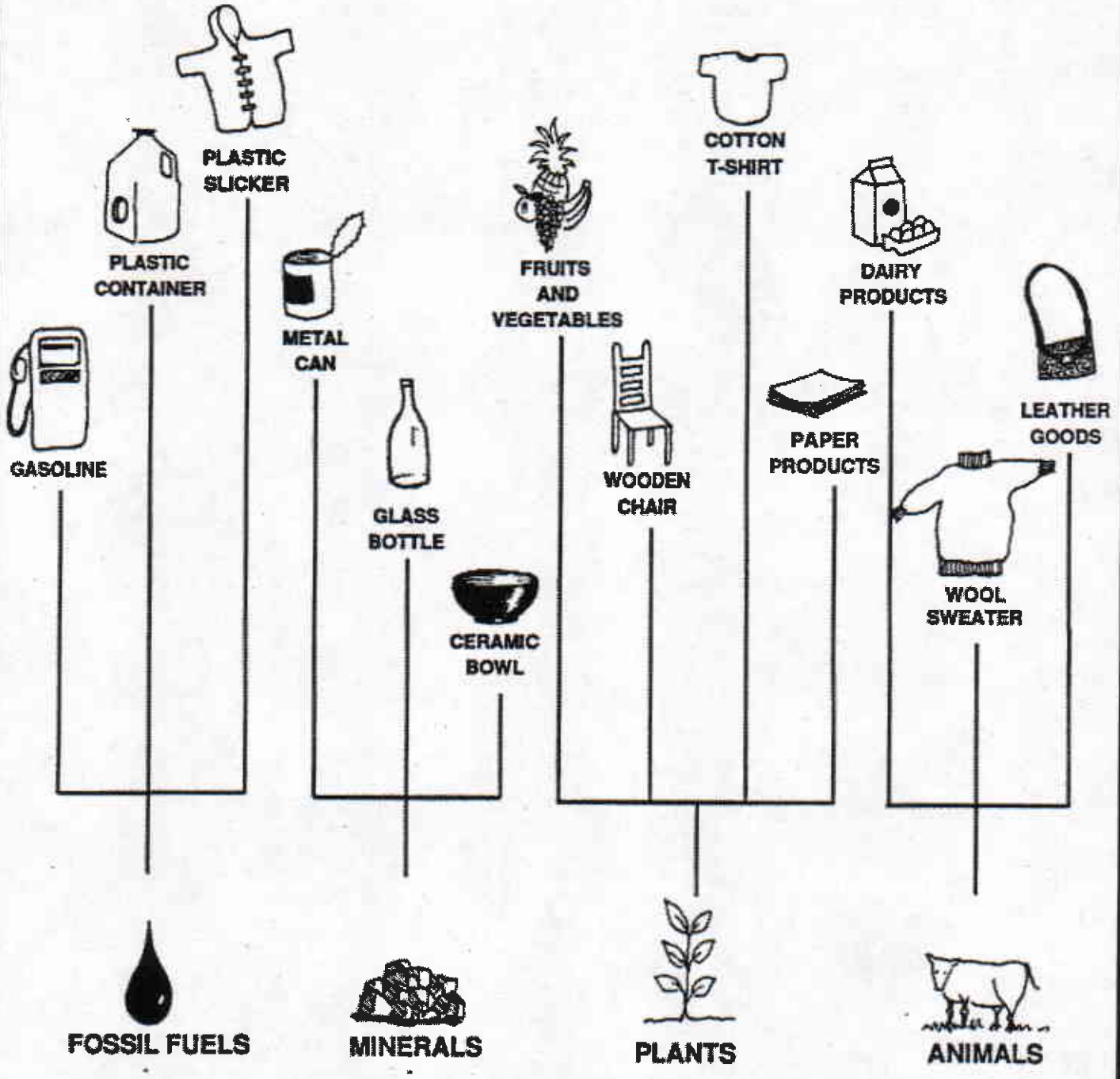
Organic waste, such as plant clippings and food scraps (renewable)

Plastic containers or bags, from *petroleum* (nonrenewable)

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Resource Tree

Renewable or Nonrenewable?



EARTH'S RESOURCES

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

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Ways to Conserve

Ideas and Discusssion

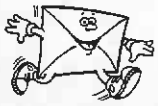
We can all help conserve natural resources and be more gentle to the environment. How? By using less stuff. Using less can help us conserve materials and natural resources. It also helps us protect wildlife habitat. ***To conserve means to use use carefully.***

Here are some ideas to help stop waste.

USE LESS

- ✔ Take shorter showers.
- ✔ Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
- ✔ Rinse dishes in a sink or pan of water instead of letting the water run.
- ✔ Experiment. Try making a tube of toothpaste or bottle of shampoo last twice as long.

REUSE THINGS



- ✔ Try using less paper by using both sides before recycling.
- ✔ Reuse your shopping bags over and over again, instead of using up trees or plastic with each trip to the store.

RECYCLE

- ✔ Recycle that aluminum can. Sending it to the landfill is a waste. By recycling, you can save 95% of the energy it took to produce the can the first time.

BEFORE YOU BUY

- ✔ Ask yourself, "Can I reuse or recycle it?" It helps make less waste if the answer is yes.
- ✔ Ask yourself, "Is it toxic?" If the answer is yes, look for a safer substitute.
- ✔ When you buy something at the store, which is more important to you? The package or what's inside?

5 Ways to Reuse

1. Reuse that shopping bag. (Save trees and fossil fuels.)
2. Turn a jar into a penny bank. (Make the most of the energy that went into making the jar.)
3. Wrap a gift with comics. (A good way to save money!)
4. Repair something that is broken. (Helps use less stuff.)
5. Pass a book or toy on to a friend. (Get as much value as possible.)

Can you think of more ways to reuse or conserve something?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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